**January, 2008** **Volume 4, Issue 1** **Copyright RCT**

# FROM THE EDITOR...

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Page 2: Minutes**

**Page 6: VE Report**

**Page 7: Top Band Record!**

**Page 9: Sparky**

**Page 16: Shack 'O the Month: KB7QAG**

**Page 17: Museum and SKN!**

**Page 21: Birthdays**

**Page 22/23: Fine print pages.**

Hello again from beautiful downtown Lakewood!

This month's issue is chock full of good stuff, beginning with the usual minutes from the club secretary, Larry KD4VOM and ending with a really neat SKN article from Rich KR7W.

In between, we have articles submitted from our fellow club members, along with many photographs to add interest.

This is a good place to for me, the editor of this August publication, to lay down some ground rules for submissions to the "Loggers Bark".

1. All articles must be in some sort of a digital format. I no longer have time/ability/interest in transcribing hand written manuscripts. Period. If you want to submit an article and have no PC, one is available at the clubhouse for members to use.
2. I prefer that you use a 10 point "Rockwell" font.
3. Documents can be in Word, MS-publisher, RTF, or event plain text E-mail.
4. Documents can be on 3.5' floppies, CD-ROM or E-mail. Even a document on a flash drive can be transferred to "Publisher".
5. If possible, include some photographs with your article.
6. Documents should fit on a standard 8 1/2 by 11' page with 1' margins.

These are simple rules and if you can help me, I'll help you by making your article the best that it can be!

As I write, the holidays are over! I sincerely hope that everyone had a great time! Here at radio WG7X, all of us had a good holiday season, and many great memories are being remembered for future times.

Why don't some of you write and tell us what happy memories that your family generated?

73 to all for now, and I'll look forward to many good club activities in the new year!

**Happy New Year 2008, from the staff of the "Loggers Bark"!**

**BOARD MEETING**
**5 December, 2007**

The 5 December 2007 Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. Vice President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:32pm

Officers and board members present:
Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Peter Baker – AD7EU
Board Member: Nick Winter – K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached.*

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected and coordinated.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson – KD4VOM

**Correspondence**: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements. We have also received the title for the Travel Trailer Steve KD7UBE acquired. In addition we picked up two additional Salmon Run donations totaling $ 114.00.

In addition we received insurance renewal notices for our liability and equipment coverage.

*A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary McFadden – K7UPG provided copies of the current financial income and expense report to the Board.

Gary asked if we had a list of the equipment covered by our insurance policy… He will research with Pat WT7N and the Marsh Company to find out what is listed.

*A copy of the Monthly financial statement is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

**ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY:** Jill reports she sent a card to Norm Hoppe, K7DCM who is having heart problems.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership**: Jill, K7JIL provided a report prepared by Rick KE7EMW. Our current membership stands a t 296 plus two that are "in the mail".

Rick has also provided some of the results of last year's survey.

293 were mailed

167 were returned

57% participated

Ricks survey also indicated ARRL membership, members who have Emergency experience/ qualifications, and those who are interested in taking emergency training if the club should offer such a program.

*The complete report is filed with the original copy of the minutes.*

**Hamfest**: Jill K7JIL advises us that Alan Hughes KB7SVU is interested in working with the Hamfest, and has had previous experience.

We have several pressing actions pending for the Hamfest, first the securing of the facility and date, and getting that information out to the community/ARRL and others.

Larry KD4VOM and Steve KD7UBE will contact the Bethel Jr. High Principal and the Bethel administration office to make the necessary arrangements.

Jill K7JIL asked the Board of they wished to advertise in the Mike and Key booklet. A ¼ page notice is $ 75.00; a ½ page is $ 150.00. The books are fundraisers for Mike and Key, but are given away free at their March Hamfest and contain a wealth of information.

It was moved seconded and passed to put a ¼ page add for the Radio Club of Tacoma in the Mike and Key booklet. The Board also asked Jill to contact the Mike and Key folks to see if we could get them to reciprocate through our Bark newsletter, and/or website. Our notice must be received by 10 January to make the booklet printing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Property Maintenance/The Roof**: Steve KD7UBE, responding to the Board's previous assignment reported on his research on the roof replacement. At least three roofing companies have visited/inspected the clubhouse and have presented estimates.

All estimates were based on tearing off and removing the old roofing, installing felt paper, replacing pipe flashing, installing rake metal edges, re-sheeting the eyebrows with plywood, new step flashing metal (front porch), installing 30 year fiberglass dimensional shingles, hauling away the debris, cleaning the gutters and magnetic sweeping of the ground. Shingles to be

nailed, not stapled. All bids did not include taxes.

$ 8,926 was bid by C. A. Heath Residential and Commercial Roofing

$ 6,850 was bid by Raintite Roofing and Gutter

$ 4,500 was bid by Bob White Roofing License #BOBWHWR965JF

Terms were half down and remainder when job completed.

All Bidders are licensed, bonded and insured.

In the discussion that followed, the question of using impregnated shingles to limit algae/moss was discussed as well as what kind of warranty was there for workmanship. A 4 inch rake metal edges vice the 2 inch proposed was recommended. Other questions were presented to Steve who will contact the low bidder/vendor to get answers.

Steve has had personal and satisfactory experience with this vendor. All vendors recommended replacement as a better course of action instead of delay or pressure washing.

None of these bid included work on the gutters or supporting boards.

*A copy of the original estimates for Heath and Raintite are attached to the original minutes.*

*A copy of the revised "Bob White Roofing" estimate which was received the day following the meeting is also attached to the original copy of the minutes*

*The revised estimate noted that the small wood box (battery) was not included, rot in the roofing is not covered, added 30 year algae block shingles for an additional $ 200.00 and established a 15 December deadline for the quote due to major expected materials cost increases as a result of higher oil prices.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Awards Banquet**: Jill K7JIL requested and was approved to charge a HRO awards banquet prize to her credit card and be reimbursed by the club in the amount of $ 150.00 The Board also approved a $ 200 advance to Rich Manson N7ANF for the Awards Banquet expenses, to be accounted for by receipts.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**Discussion Topics:**

**PSK31 Program**: Nick K7MO reports that there was a good deal of positive feedback on the PSK 31 program presented at the last meeting… Well Done Ken N7ELF.

Membership Prizes: Jill K7JIL solicited help with the meeting membership prizes. She has contacted HRO in Portland and they will offer several prize items in return for acknowledgment in our BARK newsletter.

**Copy Machine**: Mick KK7QS announced that he had found a problem with the copy machine fuser, and had fixed it. He also advised us that the "Personal Copy" machines now on the market would not likely stand up under the load we place on our copy machine and would cost much more per page than our current machine. Al K7HW has asked Mick for some data to help us make a decision on whether to replace/ repair or keep our current machine. We are also gathering data on our club's copy requirements and what it is costing us to use commercial (Kinko's, Office Depot, etc.) when the machine is down or unreliable…

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**
**12 December, 2007**

The 12 December 2007 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson -- AD7FF
Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Alan Lentz –W7AML

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 37names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Was led by President Randy Thompson AD7FF

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson – KD4VOM

**Correspondence:**

Larry reported the usual bank statements, utility bills and newsletters. Of note in the correspondence were renewal notices for our Equipment Insurance; our semi annual Internet access, and a couple Salmon Run donations.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary McFadden – K7UPG

Report available

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Jill Palmer – K7JIL reports the membership at 296 with two pending. Rick KE7EMW has also released some of the results of last year's membership survey data. Of note was data indicating that at least 15 of our membership have completed one or more emergency qualification requirements, and more importantly that 69 of our members indicate an interest in taking emergency communications classes, if the RCT would present them.

**Volunteer Examiner's Report:** John Clarke AC7WW reported that at the 11 December 2007 session, 10 candidates completed 15 elements and passed 12. All candidates earned new licenses or upgrades. Eight new Technicians joined the Amateur Ranks and two Extra Class licenses were earned. A special thanks to Joe, W7RQ, Jon AD7AW, Rich KK7VH, Jim N7RHX, Don K7QLC and of course John AC7WW for making our VE program one of the best.

**Facilities**: Steve Blacksten KD7UBE brought roofing samples for display

Doc Spike Award: Jill K7JIL presented Al Ferguson N7OMS with the Doc Spike Inspirational Award plaque. Al received the award at the 8 December Awards Banquet.

**Award**: Randy Thompson AD7FF presented a certificate of appreciation to Pete David, KK7QW for his work with the Monday night CW Code Practice Net.

**PROGRAM**: Worth, W7WG introduced tonight's program "Good Antenna Practice" which was presented by Bill AD7QI, Steve KD7UBE and Worth W7WG. Bill was exposed to ham operations by his father, and in the 1960 worked in radio repair and servicing. He spent six years in the Navy working in radar and communications. He earned a 2nd Class Radiotelephone license and worked with Motorola installing base, mobile and repeater systems. More recently, he maintained LeMay's fleet communication systems.

Bill's program tonight was aimed at new hams interested in getting working antennas up at minimal cost. He reviewed the key antenna length calculating formulas, demonstrated a simple dipole using home brew insulators and described the basic functions of the BALUN and circulated a homebrew BALUN made with a torroid wound with wire. Bill pointed out that VSWR is not necessarily the best indicator of antenna performance and provided cases where the VSWR was fine, but the antenna was not radiating as it should. VSWR does help protect the transmitter, but more analysis is required to see if your antenna is functioning like you want it to…

Steve KD7UBE also demonstrated the current version of the golf ball antenna launcher.

Worth W7WG passed around paper and solicited inputs from the group for future programs,

either programs we would like to see, or programs we can offer to present.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**26 December 2007 Meeting:** Randy AD7FF polled the group to determine whether to have a meeting on the day after Christmas. The majority voted to have the meeting…

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Awards Banquet**: Rich Manson N7ANF thanked all who contributed time, effort, turkeys and ham to make the 8 December Annual Awards Banquet a success…

**Discussion Topics:**

**Emergency Operations Activity:** Gary K7UPG noted that several ARRL newsletters have recognized the kudos Amateurs in Oregon and Washington have received for their rapid and effective support of the recent storm.

**Museum Plastic Jars**: Roger Holme KE7EMV asked where he needed to deliver the plastic jars the club asked for. Rich KR7W is looking for the large mouth 64 oz clear plastic jars to organize and store small parts. They can be dropped off at the Clubhouse any Saturday and will get to Rich.

**Tuning and Traffic:**

Ken N7ELF reports a contact with JO7CVU mid day on 20 meters

There was a report that G4FON on the internet has a good CW practice program. Just Google G4FON and the links to the download site are there. (www.**g4fon**.net/CW%20Trainer.htm ).

**RCT Musical Group??? Jill K7JIL advanced the idea of forming a Radio Club of** Tacoma musical group. If you are interested contact Jill. This is not the first time the Radio Club has had a musical group… There was an earlier and successful group called the "Zero Beats" .

**Door Prize:** A large roll of duct tape was won by…
????

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**
**26 December, 2007**

The 26 December 2007 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Jill Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Alan Lentz –W7AML
Board Member: Peter Baker – AD7EU

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 33 names on the attendance roster*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Was led by Vice President Jill Palmer K7JIL

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:**

No report of illness or Silent Key

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson – KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** Larry KD4VOM reported the usual utilities, phone bills, bank statements and club newsletters were received. We are still receiving a few Salmon Run pledges, and also received our Crawford Mountain repeater site lease bill for 2008. Internet Broadband semi annual bill for the first half of 2008 has also been received.

*A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

**The Calendar:**

5/6 January Technician Class

8 January VE Testing Session

31 December Straight Key Night/ Potluck

1 January Membership renewals payable

2 January RCT Board meeting

February – Freeze Your Buns Off contest

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary McFadden – K7UPG

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Jill Palmer – K7JIL/Rick Rose KE7EMW reports we will likely end the year with our membership standing at 296. The annual membership renewal packages will be mailed soon, but if you wish you can pay your dues to Rick.

**PROGRAM**: Ken Gibson N7ELF presented tonight's program which included the "Amateur Radio Today" narrated by Walter Cronkite, and an Icom video of a visit to W1AW which included a tour of the station and the fun of contesting.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

**Facilities Maintenance**: Steve KD7UBE announced that the clubhouse roofing contractor has been selected and work is expected to begin after the first of the year when weather permits.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Straight Key Night**: Rich KR7W reminded all of the Straight Key night coming up on Monday, 31 December. This is a fun social evening and pot luck. Bring whatever you wish. Starts around 4 pm at the clubhouse. Although this is a CW event you don't have to know CW to enjoy the evening. Come and watch the team fire up "Old Chirpy" the "Old Oak Rig" at W7OS and operate if you wish, but enjoy the evening.

**Valentines Day Pot Luck**: Jill K7JIL announced that although the date is not yet set, we will be having a Valentines Potluck this year

**HAM Radio Outlet**: Jill K7JIL has been working with HRO who is helping us with our door prizes and is very supportive of our operations. The manager of the Portland HRO operation is Leon, contact him if you need something from HRO. Bill AD7QR just purchased a new Icom 756 Pro III and is pleased with the service.

**Mike and Key Pamphlet**: Jill K7JIL reports that we are placing a quarter page Radio Club of Tacoma item in their 2008 pamphlet which is distributed free at the upcoming March Hamfest. This pamphlet gets great circulation and contains valuable amateur radio club activity information in our area.

**Discussion Topics:**

**2 Meter Antenna:** Steve KD7UBE brought in an unusual 2 meter antenna made from copper tubing and PVC pipes. It sorta looks like an overgrown eggbeater, but works well and looks fairly simple to build. The instructions should be on the website soon.

**RCT Musical Group:** Jill reminded folks she is looking for people to help form a Radio Club of Tacoma musical group; she has a few volunteers already and needs more to step up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm

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**VE REPORT John AC7WW**

On Tuesday evening, December 11th 2007, 10 candidates and six volunteer examiners were gathered at the Radio Club of Tacoma's clubhouse. The VE's graded 15 elements with 12 being passed. All the candidates earned a new license or an upgrade. Eight new Technicians joined the Amateur ranks and two Extra class licenses were earned.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Joe, W7RQ Jon, AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH Jim, N7RHX
Don, K7QLC

# TOP BAND RECORD!

**Worth Gurley, W7WG**

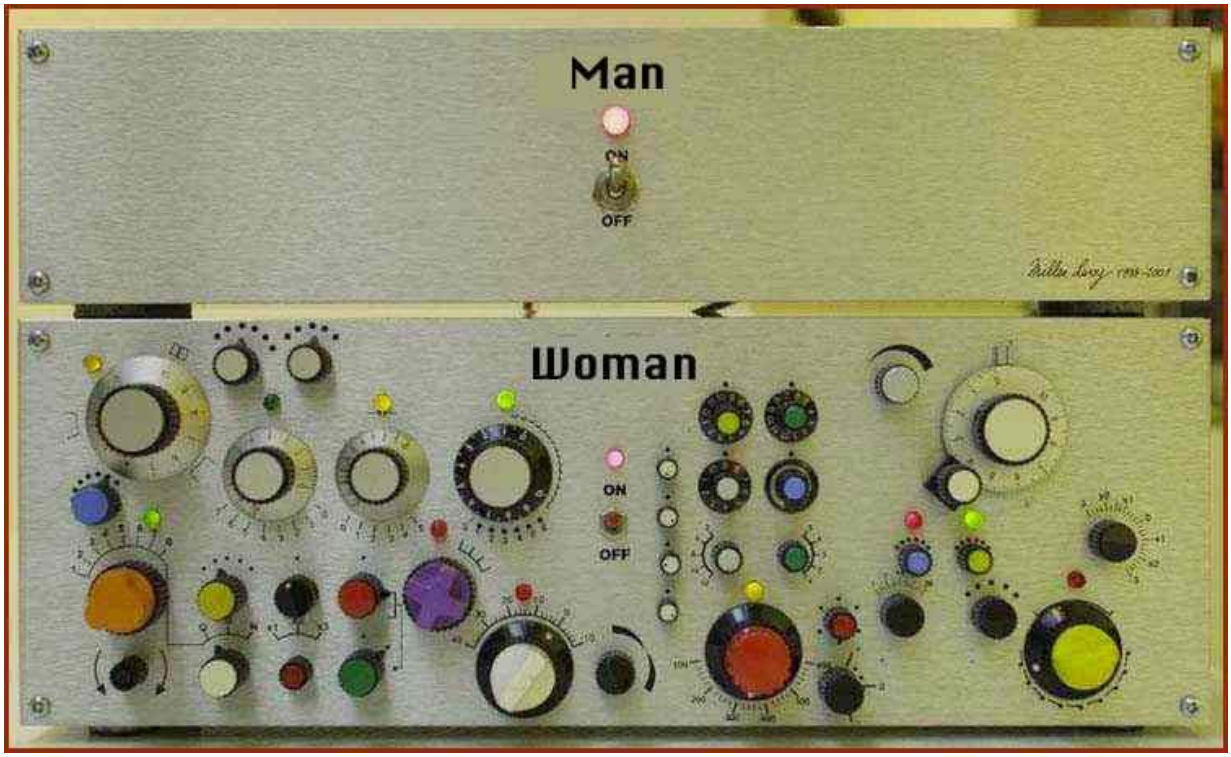
On December 19th, 2007 around 2105 Hours Pacific Standard Time, **Rick Rose**, **KE7EMW**, had a "Marconi Moment", a high point in the amateur radio experience, by reaching down to the depth of amateur radio by radiating strong enough Electromagnetic Waves (EMW) on the lowest band available to amateur radio to make his first 160 meter band contact. This was accomplished using a very short, but well-tuned, antenna. His contact was with local survivors of the esteemed Whiskey Group: W7HSA, AD7QI, AC7BU, and W7WG. His signals were exceptionally clear in spite of adverse propagation conditions during poor sunspot activity. The QI Antenna organization plans to assist Rick in the installation of full-sized antennas to enable him to make DX contacts on this unique band of distances comparable to those of the historic Marconi tests on similar wavelengths. Congratulations, Rick!!

Of historical note: the 160 meter band pre-WWII was the only HF phone band available to radio amateur with the Class B license, the only license available to hams the first licensed year. (The Class A license test, which opened up the 75 m and 20 m phone sub-bands, could be taken only after holding an amateur license for at least a year.) Thus so many new (many in those days, young) ham learned to build plate modulators for their class C RF amplifiers...and to be very careful to keep from over-modulating and splattering all over the band. The FCC actually monitored the ham bands in those days, very carefully. Thus hams fondly think back to the 160 meter band as their "First Love"!

After amateur radio was allowed back on the air, the 160 meter band was reserved for LORAN navigation systems, very important in those pre-satellite days. Manufactured transmitters and transceivers were manufactured with no 160 meter band; for example, the Heathkit DX-40 and earlier Yaesu SSB transceivers. Then shared use was available, except for certain coastal and Great Lakes areas. The 160 meter band finally was available for full amateur use after satellites became the primary navigational aid. It became an excellent, but sparsely used, evening and nighttime band.

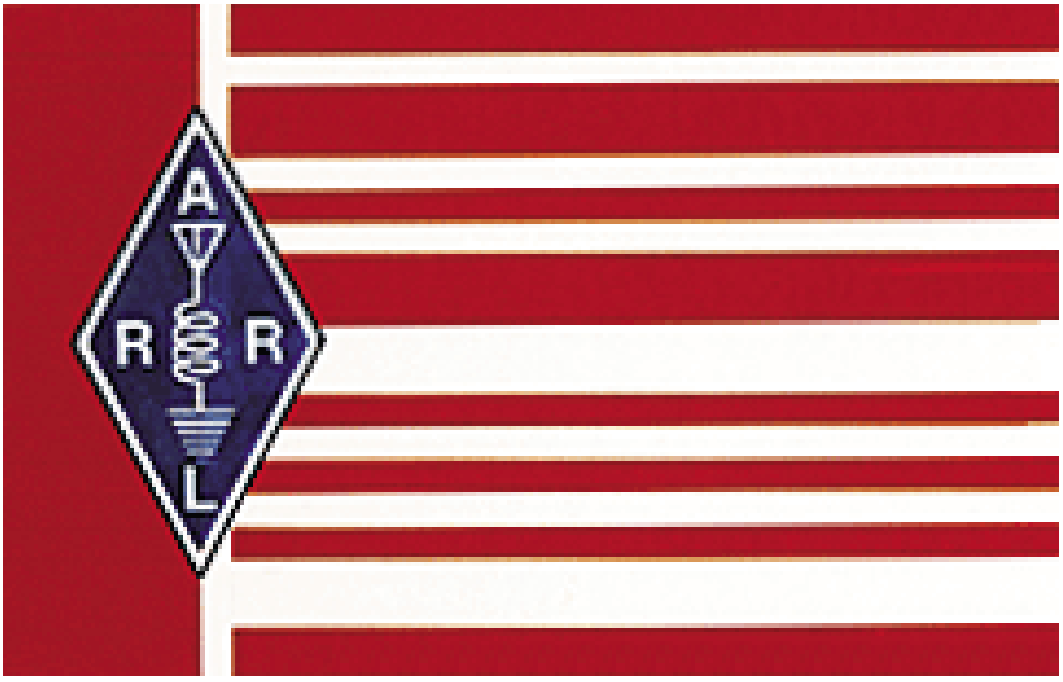
Give it a try! Even a spool of magnet wire wound around your back yard, working against ground will get you started.

## No explanation necessary!




Trivia corner: Does anyone here know what the bars on the ARRL flag represent?

Send your answers to: wg7x at ARRL dot net. Winners get something… Dunno what yet, but something...



## Dateline: January 2008
## *Sparky's* "View from the Shack"

### *This and that, around the club, and more…*

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

So, with little fanfare and less expectations, to infinity, and beyond…

A little editorial philosophy

*While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

***"Sparky"*** welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs.

- *That sed, we cast off on a voyage through uncharted waters.*

### "It's That Time of Year…

When we traditionally give thanks for our blessings and enter into contracts with ourselves to resolve to do better this year. Many of our self-promises will fade or go unfulfilled but some will make the grade.

Sparky's made some resolutions for the new year too, but first, a look back a 2007.

> *Most of you know that we have almost 300 members, and most of you know that a much smaller number contribute many hours of volunteer time and skills to make the Radio Club of Tacoma an organization we are proud to be associated with.*

Although there was a sizeable group at our Annual Awards Banquet and Christmas Dinner, many missed our annual recognition program.

Sparky wants you all to know what it takes to make our club go, and who spends their time, energy and skills to make things happen. Of course, Sparky will miss some who made contributions, and for that he apologizes up front. If there are errors or omissions they belong to Sparky and not the illustrious and noble editor of the BARK…

### The BARK

Gary McAdams WG7X and those who contribute regularly to make our newsletter informative, useful and entertaining. There may be more, but Gary does the yeoman work and welcomes contributors like Bruce KD7UAQ who provided a series of a series of articles on the dynamic changes underway in emergency operations and how they affect Hams, Rich KR7W contributes technical and humorous articles frequently as well as helping Gary wherever he can. I'm sure there are more, and Gary welcomes budding reporters or articles of interest to the group.

### Open House

Almost every Saturday the Clubhouse provides a cup of coffee, donuts and a chance to socialize and share our hobby experiences. And almost every Saturday, Rich Manson N7ANF brings the donuts, opens up the clubhouse, makes coffee and holds court for those whose Saturday ritual includes Amateur Radio at the Clubhouse. FB Rich

## Bulk Mail Operations

Here is an large, important and difficult job that most won't even recognize. John Clarke, AC7WW is our "Bulk Mail guy" with an important assist from XYL Connie, he pretty much single handedly manages the large club mailing projects like the Annual Membership Renewal packages, the Annual Election Ballot mailing packages and each month runs around 40 copies of our BARK to members who are unable to get it through the website download process. Although not enough to qualify as bulk mail, John and Connie make the Bark by mail work. There are many more bulk mailings, like Field Day flyers, Hamfest flyers and registration forms, prepared by others, but getting them in the mail is where John and Connie shine…

## Membership

Jill Palmer K7JIL is the lead on the Membership team, but in recent years, Rick Rose KE7EMW has made significant contributions to our membership program and database development. Not only has he managed to develop an outstanding database of current members, he is also capturing membership information as far back as we have records, going all the way back to the first recorded minutes in 1916. Rick's database also contains considerable information on who holds what jobs, and the results of our annual membership survey data (which by the way is used to pre-fill the next year's survey so that members don't have to re-enter the same data year after year. Rich handles not only the membership applications and issues membership cards, but also processes all of the membership dues and depositing the money with the Treasurer. Rick has been developing an improved new member package which should be ready soon.
Beyond Membership itself Rick is the point of contact for information dissemination to the membership through e-mail notices such as the regular meeting and program reminders we all get.

## Hamfest

This year Linda KE7FKX and team managed our annual fund raising Hamfest. She did a marvelous job, especially considering this was the first time she had done this kind of job. The Hamfest is a broad and difficult job, planning, scheduling, reserving the facility, arranging for tables, and other needed equipment, and then finding people willing to fill the jobs to make the Hamfest work. She was also the head bookkeeper and accountant, carefully keeping track of the events income and expenses. Linda was one of the few Radio Club Activities that actually prepared the required budget. There were dozens who helped, and Linda recognized them all at the Awards Banquet.

## Field Day

Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Nick Winter K7MO and host of others planned, and executed the RCT 2007 Field Day. Packing out from the garage, laying out power and shooting antennas, erecting "rocket launchers and other exotic radiation devices, setting up the chow tent, GOTA station, safety and security, and of course the welcome tent. Then to work demonstrating our talents in communications. Not to minimize the extensive effort to take things down, disassemble and return the equipment storage, and of course collect, scrub and submit our logs to the ARRL for checking. The Western Washington State Hospital handled our array of equipment nicely although there were reports of QRM. Sparky tips his hat to all who had a hand in making it happen

**W7DK @ the Fair**

Pat Wingerter WT7N, and crew, Rich KR7W, Chuck AC7QN, made our annual promotion of Amateur Radio something special. Thanks to all who served at the booth and especially to Pat for making things happen.

**VE Operations**

John Clarke AC7WW and VE Team all year long hold forth on the second Tuesday of every month to administer license examinations to those seeking to join or advance in our hallowed hobby. A special thanks is in order to those who stand and serve as Volunteer Examiners...Joe Baldissari W7RQ, Rich Heasty KK7VH, Don Perry K7QLC, Jon Hamilton AD7AW, Jim Lawrence N7RHX, Steve Morton AD7AB, AL Burleson K7HW, Shirley Murphy N7QH, and Tom Murphy N7QHX

**Training**

Technician Course

Steve Morton AD7AB and his small Team of instructors keep the doors open to all seeking to learn of this venerated and exciting hobby. Conducting small and large classes wherever needed to bring those seeking enlightenment in the communications arts to the fold.

This year, Gary McAdams WG7X kicked off a General Course to help those new Technicians move into the broader High Frequency world. Gary WG7X, Rich KR7W, Peter AD7EU, and Larry KD4VOM all had a hand in the General Class training program

**RCT Operations**

W7DK 2 Meter Net

Bud Mitze K7BUD and Net Controllers who make our 2 meter net hum, no pun intended. Gary WG7X, Scott. KA7IOX, Rick KE7EMW, Peter AD7EU

W7DK 10 Meter Net

Lynn Neece K7OKS holds forth on the Sunday night 10 meter net. An opportunity even for Technicians to begin to develop their HF skills.

This year saw the evolution of an RCT CW Slow Code Practice Net, Thanks to Pete, KK7QW, Harry W7HSA, Worth W7WG and others who work hard at promoting Morse code skills, and its working, Thanks

W7OS Straight Key Night

This has become a tradition for the Museum Group under the guidance and enthusiasm of Rich Patrick KR7W, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Pete KK7QW, Al N7OMS, Pat WT7N, Morel, W6LIX and Worth W7WG.

W7DK Sweepstakes Contest with Gary WG7X, Al N7OMS and Pete KK7QW.

W7DK @ the Beach

Larry Watson KD4VOM, XYL Janice, and many others managed the annual Kirkreit picnic this year at Bradley Lake park in South Hill. Of course it rained but that failed to dampen spirits and the bunny hunting proceeded with vigor and determination...

**RCT Public Information and Promotion**

While we don't have an official Public Information Officer (We need one), nevertheless the W7DK.org Website gets the word out and provides a useful tool for what's going on in the Club, and links to important information elsewhere. Kudos to Rich Patrick KR7W for keeping our web presence current, informative and entertaining… Rich also maintains our W7DK E-Group for postings of questions, answers and just general information.

**W7DK Meeting Programs**

Our meeting programs don't create themselves. This past year Nick Winter K7MO, managed to field an informative and interesting array of programs ranging from Digital modes, to Contesting, from antenna design and construction to just eyeball to eyeball QSO parties We all learned a bit about Amateur Radio History and technical topics from almost 24 sessions. It was a lot of work and we owe Nick a "Well Done" for making our meeting programs a highlight of the Club year.

Ken Gibson N7ELF has stepped up to co-chair the Programs Team, and has already picked up the challenge and presented two great programs. His has held a planning meeting and developed great ideas for the coming year.

**RCT History and Documentary**

Some of you may remember the great Radio Club of Tacoma Documentary presented at our 90th Anniversary celebration. The Documentary is a work in progress and although not visible to most, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Lee Barker KE7FKX, Peter Baker AD7EU, and Larry Watson KD4VOM continue to work behind the scenes to create the next volume in our club history. Several additional "Old Timer" video interviews have been completed. If you are in to Club history and want to assist in some research or documentary work Contact Al or Larry — There's plenty left to do

**RCT Property Inventory**

Most would agree with the premise that the Club should know what it owns. Sadly, we discovered that was not the case, and although we had sparse remnants of former inventory lists, they were dated and all but useless. Bob Purdom AD7LJ and team Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Peter Baker AD7EU, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Larry Watson KD4VOM have made significant progress in inventorying and documenting our property, and while much remains to be done, we're much better off for their efforts.

**RCT Facilities**

Speaking of property, our building itself is showing signs of its age. Needed maintenance and repairs have languished in never- never land until this year. Steve KD7UBE spearheaded the windows project and now we have new thermal pane vinyl windows that replaced the old badly rotted and weather-beaten ones. Steve has recently done the research resulting in a contract to have our roof re-shingled, thanks in great measure to the Salmon Run Fund Raiser sparked by Al N7OMS.

In addition to these clubhouse projects, major remodeling work is well underway to bring our Library into the 21st century, and make the W7OS Antique Radio Museum into a more welcoming and fun place to be. Thanks again to Rich KR7W, Al N7OMS, Pat WT7N, Chuck AC7QN, Pete KK7QW

**The Library Shelving Project**

Rich Patrick KR7W, Pat, WT7NChuck, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Pete KK7QW and others have put new flooring in the eaves; removed old shelving, reworked power cabling and outlets, constructed and installed new shelving, put in a new stairwell banister and repainted both the room and new shelving.

**The Museum**

Remodeling Project Rich KR7W, Pat WT7N, Chuck AC7QN, Al N7OMS, Pete KK7QW have completed a major remodeling of the W7OS Museum, moving equipment into newly renovated eaves storage, reconstructing the shelving and table for the "Old Oak Rig", and remodeling the test bench and antenna feed lines.
Other contributions to the clubhouse include the installation of coffeepot timers and Bob Heselberg K7MXE's care of the lawn, Bob Purdom AD7LJ's repair of the lawnmower and weedeater and on and on… Sparky notes, it takes a village to make the RCT go…

**Photographs and Media**

The story of the club's operations over the year can also be told in the photos taken by our members. Without them the record of our activities would be sorely missing, A special well done to Jay KD7DKY,
Larry KD4VOM,Rich KR7W, Al N7OMS, Pat WT7N, Rick KE7EMW and Worth W7WG whose photos over the year enrich our historical documentation.

**Public Service**

Scouting Support has been a recurring theme with the Radio Club of Tacoma, this year Steve KD7UBE and a hearty team supported the Scouting Camporee, while Nick K7MO worked with the scouts on the Radio Merit badge.

**RCT Administration**

There are many who support the clubs administrative duties, including the Nominating Committee, who solicits candidates, Conduct the Nomination Process and educate the membership on the Election process, Thanks to Mick KK7QS, RogerWA7ANJ and Al

When the Nomination Committee's work is don the job moves to The Election Committee—who prepare the ballots, label and mail the ballots, count the ballots returned and announce the results.
This year's team was headed by Pat WT7N .

**Salmon Run** - One of this years most important events was the brainchild of Al N7OMS. It was Al who saw the opportunity to use the Western Washington DX Club's annual Salmon Run contest as a way to raise much needed funds for maintenance and repair of our aging clubhouse. The project was a great success and raised close to five thousand dollars, which will essentially underwrite the needed clubhouse roof replacement.
Sparky also notes that although the idea was Al's, what really made it possible were the members who opened up their pockets and checkbooks to pledge and deliver the money we needed. It is gratifying Sparky is sure, to those who donate so many hours making the club a better place to go, to know that they have the solid support of a membership who cares.

**The Copy Machine**… Although our machine is old and cantankerous, Sparky thanks Mick KK7QS for the work he does to keep our antique running…and, to John AC7WW and XYL Connie for stubborn persistence in making it do the work.

Those who attended the 14 November meeting witnessed a great program by Bruce Franklin K7DYY Who delivered a great presentation on the rapidly evolving "Software Defined Radio". Sparky is expecting great things from this effort to make our meetings exciting, informative and interesting… Stay tuned…

**Around the Shack…**

As always, the view from around the Shack has been busy all year long… so, instead of words here's the a small selection of photos to enjoy
Sparky

***A government which robs Peter to pay Paul, can always depend on the support of Paul — G B Shaw...***

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WE WILL SELL YOUR GOODS
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# SHACK OF THE MONTH
# THIS MONTH: KB7QAG

## The Museum Gets a Make-Over
**by Rich KR7W, Museum Officer**

It all started last summer when the clubhouse had new vinyl windows installed. I was asked to move the Old Oak Rig away from the window in the museum. After moving the rig's table out of the way of the contractor... it occurred to me that the very top heavy Old Oak Rig and its table were blocking the way of egress from the second floor. What if there was a fire? I thought to myself. This window is the only way out of this room. Yikes!

This thinking led to developing a modified floor plan to place the Old Oak Rig in a different place and keep the window access clear. Using the computer program, Visio, I drew up a floor plan and "rearranged the furniture" in the room (on the screen).

With a plan in hand… myself, Chuck AC7QN, Pete KK7QW, Pat WT7N, and Al N7OMS got to work. Listed below are some of the changes made:

1. The Museum's doublet antenna now enters the room from outside through the was just south of the window. Previously the antenna entered the room via the old window.
2. The Old Oak Rig now sits in the SW corner of the room where a piece of the old operating position/bench was removed.
3. The work/repair bench was rotated 90 degrees clockwise to clear more space in front of the window.
4. New GFCI outlets were installed to feed the Old Oak Rig and the work/repair bench.
5. An additional fluorescent light was added in the south attic storage space.
6. A new coat of paint was applied to the entire museum to cover up the imperfections caused by the removal of glued on operating position/bench and work/repair bench from the walls.
7. New display shelves were constructed and placed on the west wall.

The remodel completion date was planned to coincide with Straight Key Night 2008 (12/32/2007 at 4:00 PM)

Completion is about 90 percent based on the original plan.

Comments heard at the Grand Re-Opening were positive, mainly focusing on the amount of open space to work, sit down and visit, and operate equipment. Photos will be in the next Bark issue.

Joe… I hope you can bring your Drake radio down and get those bad diodes replaced…-30-

## Library Area Construction Continues
**by Rich KR7W, Museum Officer**

While the Museum remodeling work was going on… Al N7OMS and the Library group was remodeling some of their area at the top of the stairs.

The Museum construction company was roped into assisting with the library effort.

Besides the new library shelves… these items were completed:

1. The rickety railing was removed and a new knee wall was built on the east side of the stairwell.
2. The area was prepared to receive the installation of new book shelves on the east wall.
3. A new sturdy hand rail was constructed and installed on the west side of the stairwell.
4. Part of the workbench was removed to reveal more open space.
5. New electrical outlets were installed on the old workbench wall.
6. The two "mystery holes" in the ceiling were dealt with. One was sheet rocked over and the other received a crawlspace access door.
7. The entire library area and stairwell was painted to match the museum.

**Continued on next page...**

**Library Remodel Story...**

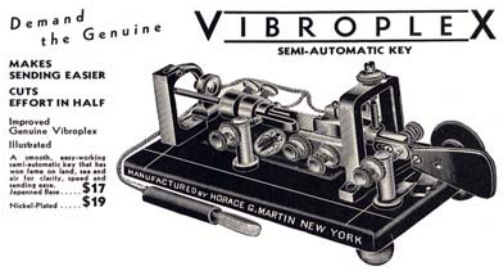
8. A new library table was constructed and installed in the NW corner of the library.

All of this reconstruction was scheduled to be completed by 12/31/2007 to coincide with Straight Key Night. About 90 percent of the items were completed.
-30-

## Straight Key Night… A Gay Ole Time

**By Rich KR7W, Museum Officer**

Straight Key Night (SKN), an ARRL sponsored operating event, is held every New Years Day at 0000 UTC. This equates to New Years Eve at 4:00 PM for us on the west coast. SKN is an amateur radio operating event that encourages hams to get out their straight keys and bugs and operate CW like in the 'old days'. Some hams and ham clubs like to take SKN a step further into the past by getting out their antique transmitters and receivers and put them on the air along with their old J-38 keys and Vibroplex bugs from WWII.




For the last three years I have been involved with the Radio Club of Tacoma's Doc Spike W7OS Museum's SKN effort. This year the re-opening of the W7OS Museum and SKN were held together.

This year for SKN, myself and Chuck AC7QN did a complete going over of the old oak rig and its connecting parts to ensure it working correctly. This effort proved successful… yielding 18 total SKN contacts, with 17 emanating from the Old Oak Rig. The remaining one contact was made with the Globescout 65 and Drake 2B receiver.

Contacts from as far away as Don K0HUU in Springfield, MO… Brad NB9M in Morgantown, IN… Don K5KW in Fort Gibson, OK were made with the Old Oak Rig. Other far away contacts were made into Arizona, New Mexico, and California.

Radio club members: Al AC7BU, Rick KE7EMW, Harry N7DOE es W7PU, and Harry W7HSA made contact with W7OS from their home stations.

I copied most of the QSOs down on my tablet… and the most common thing said by the hams who made contact with W7OS was about the chirp. A couple of RSTs given to W7OS were 589C, 599C… with the C designating 'chirp'.

The QSO that Peter AD7EU had with N7KO noted that the "SLIGHT CHIRP ON UR XMTR MAKES IT EASIER TO PICK U OUT OF QRM HI" .

The QSO that Doug had with Brad NB9M in Indiana read, "FB DOUG=RST 449. SOME CHIRP".

Many other contacts noted the unique sound of W7OS's chirp.

Another interesting contact that Pete KK7QW had with W7YS in Flagstaff, AZ stated, "NAME IS BILL= INFRONT OF ME IS A PHOTO OF ME AND DOCTOR SPIKE TAKEN IN 1980 AT THE MUSEUM AT LACY WA. A GRAND OLD MAN HI ar". Bill goes on, "AND BY THE WAY THE ORIGINAL W7YS WAS FATHER RUTH WHO STARTED W7OS (meaning elmered) IN HAM RADIO= = I MET MANY MEMBERS OF UR CLUB IN 1980 DURRING MY VISIT TO ST MARTINS COLLEGE= A GREAT PLEASURE TO HEAR W7OS ON THE AIR TNS SKN QSO 73 HNY (meaning Happy New Year) 73 W7OS DE W7YS".

**Continued on next page...**

**Straight Key Night...A Gay Ole Time…**

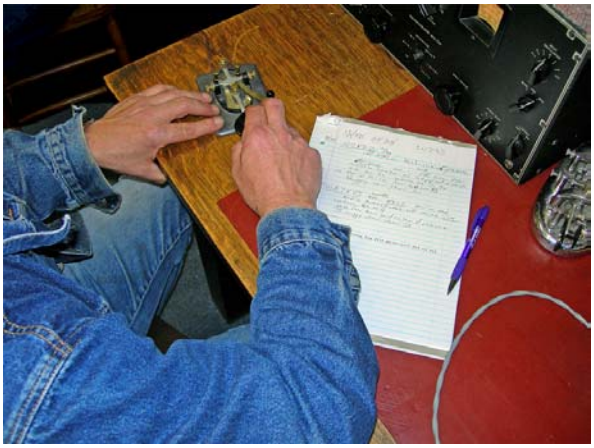
Club members who stopped by the W7OS Museum to make SKN contacts are:
Joe K7AWJ
Randy WB4SPB
Rich KR7W
Peter AD7EU
Doug AD7AV
Pete KK7QW
Harry W7HSA
CT N7UH
Worth W7WG

**Doug AD7AV pounds brass with NB9M located in Morgantown, IN. 449C reported.**

**CT, N7UH, makes contact with WA7KYI on Mauary Island. Not DX, but still fun.**

Club Members who made contact with W7OS from their home stations are:
Doug AD7AV
Al AC7BU
Rick Rose KE7EMW
Harry Adams W7HSA
Harry Wong N7DOE and W7PU
Bill W9BYU

**Peter AD7EU QSOs with N7KO in Flagstaff, AZ. Peter used an old German made typewriter that prints in cursive. Pounding on the typewriter keys caused the HQ-120 receiver to change frequency (warble) slightly.**



**Pete KK7QW *POUNDS* brass with club member Rick KE7EMW in Lakewood.**

**Continued on next page…**

**Here's Harry W7HSA getting ready to make his first SKN contact on the Old Oak Rig.**

**Harry actually had QSO W7QQQ in Flagstaff, AZ.**

**Morel W6LIX, calls CQ with the bug.**

**Looky here… it's Pete KK7QW having QSO with W7HSA Harry at his home station.**

**Rich KR7W calls CQ on the Globescout 65 transmitter and Drake 2B receiver.**

**Meters swing to the rhythm of the code being sent.**

Many thanks to the 33 folks who came to the SKN Potluck Party. There was lots 'o good food and commaderie. It was nice to see a group of folks having conversations in every room in the clubhouse. A great turn out, indeed!

So, get your keys out and practice for next years SKN. It is a good way to preserve some of the traditions of amateur radio.

Joe… I wish you cudda made it. -30-

# Happy Birthday January

| Day | Name | Call | RCT Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ken Keigley | **W7DM** | 199 |
| 2 | Dan Hale | **KC7IEI** | 1942 |
| 5 | Glenn Mattison | **WA7LON** | 668 |
| 6 | Jeff Carter | **W7WAL** | 2098 |
| 6 | John Clarke | **AC7WW** | 2140 |
| 9 | George Curtis Jr | **N7YKY** | 2334 |
| 10 | Deanna Jenks | **KE7ING** | 1458 |
| 10 | Wayne Shones | **KE7OOM** | 2340 |
| 11 | Leonard Burstiner | **KA7NWF** | 2308 |
| 11 | Paul LeBlanc | **K7AXJ** | 2125 |
| 14 | Ray Pedersen | **W7KFN** | 1133 |
| 14 | Stan Nelson | **K7DKK** | 2311 |
| 16 | Stephen Morton | **AD7AB** | 2127 |
| 17 | Marvin Wheeler | **KG7V** | 638 |
| 18 | Gary McAdams | **WG7X** | 1249 |
| 22 | Pete David | **KK7QW** | 1935 |
| 22 | Rick Rose | **KE7EMW** | 2247 |
| 23 | Art Allen | **KD7KQE** | 2082 |
| 23 | Bill Stephens | **KD7KPV** | 2091 |
| 23 | Jean Wheeler | **W7OII** | 653.2 |
| 25 | Donald Olson | **W7DON** | 1397 |
| 27 | Perry Lind | **KC7ZEE** | 2310 |
| 28 | Bob Hagar | **W7SKI** | 1395 |
| 29 | Kirk Schroll | **KC7UFY** | 1953 |

# The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

***The Logger's Bark*** **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

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**Treasurer: Gary McFadden, K7UPG k7upg@netzero.com**

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**The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.** RCT Members with limited/no internet access may request that a condensed, paper copy be mailed to their home address. Please contact Rick Rose – KE7EMW at (253) 581-7673 or RCT-Membership@comcast.net to request The Logger's Bark home-delivery.

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## RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

**Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 RCT Packet 144.91**
**Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County) 147.380 + PL=103.5**
**Central Tacoma 440.625 + PL=103.5**

*THE LOGGER'S BARK*
**Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.**
**P.O. Box 11188**
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**TO RCT MEMBER:**

# JANUARY 2008 EVENTS

**Club Meetings:** Wednesdays January 9th and 23rd at the library Administration building at 7:30 PM, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting,** Wednesday January 2nd 7:30 PM at the. Clubhouse - All members welcome.

**License Testing** - Tuesday, January 8th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse.

**BARK deadline** - Last week-end of every month.. PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB